

HENRY H. MEYERS GARDEN
2021 Alameda Avenue
Alameda
Alameda County
California

HALS CA-48
CA-48

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

HENRY H. MEYERS GARDEN

HALS NO. CA-48

Location: 2021 Alameda Avenue, Alameda, Alameda County, CA
Lat: 37.460215 Long: -122.150867

Significance: The property is Alameda City Monument No. 26. The property has local significance for its association with architect Henry H. Meyers who designed many civic buildings throughout Alameda County. It is an excellent example of a cohesively designed house and garden owned by a single family and has good integrity.

Description: The property occupies 3 lots in a residential neighborhood – a notably large lot for this island city. The front garden is shallow and planted with lawn, a boxwood hedge, standard roses and Indian hawthorn. There is a large holly and a redwood tree at the street. A delicately detailed, white, wooden pergola and lattice fence connects to the front porch of the house and runs parallel to the sidewalk clearly defining and separating the front, public garden from the private garden within. There is a pedestrian gate and a double vehicle gate built into the pergola – both highly detailed with elaborately cut and carved members. Brick tire tracks lead through the gate to a three car garage. The front of the garage is softened by the addition of a trellis across the front with vines. The detailing of the pergola is light and affords partial views into the garden.

Large camellia trees and wisteria vines are planted around the pergola. The primary garden area lies between the pergola and the garage and consists of a formally shaped lawn with concrete and brick edging, with a cast birdbath/fountain centerpiece, and formal shrub and perennial beds. A few other garden ornaments are placed in the garden including a 3' bronze bell, a 3' cast pedestal, a large wheeled cart, and an architectural fragment. There is a white, wooden fence with an arched trellis and a hedge that defines the back edge of the lawn. The sideyard fences are also elaborately and uniquely detailed and also made of wood, painted white.

The house designed by Henry H. Meyers and built by his father Jacob Meyers in 1897 is a colonial revival style house. The house, garage, carriage house, pergola, fences, and trellis are all made of wood and all painted white. There is also a greenhouse on the property and a small area fenced for garden supplies. These are painted green. The front walk and steps and path to the gate are plain concrete. The garden path beneath the pergola is pea gravel as is the space between the house and carriage house.

Behind the garage is a separate architecture studio designed by daughter Mildred Meyers in a Mediterranean style with a tile roof and stucco walls. Built in 1935.

History: Henry H. Meyers (1867 – 1943) studied architecture in San Francisco at the firm of Percy and Hamilton around 1890. When the partners died Meyers took over the practice. He was in partnership with Clarence R. Ward from 1904 to 1910, worked on his own 1910 – 1922 and collaborated with George Klinkhardt. His first office and early records were destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire.

Meyers served as Architect for Alameda County. During the course of his career he designed over 200 government, commercial, institutional, church and residential buildings including ten Veterans Memorial Buildings, Highland Hospital, and the Portals to the Posey Tube. (Note: the author's grandfather, Lewis Pattillo poured the concrete for the Posey tube). His practice focused primarily on the San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California but he also designed buildings in Hawaii and Guam.

Henry Meyers married Bertha May in 1894 and had three daughters: Edith (1900-1971) was a physician, Mildred (1898-1982) practiced as an architect, and Jeanette (1905-93) ran their Dry Creek Ranch near Union City. Mr. Meyers died in 1943, followed by his wife in 1947.

Upon their deaths the three daughters bequeathed the home and garden to the City of Alameda to serve as a house museum and park.

Sources: "UC Berkeley archives,
<http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/profiles/meyers.htm>

Online Archive of California
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf100001sq/>

George C. Gunn, Curator, Alameda Museum,
<http://www.alamedamuseum.org/museum/meyers/studio/meyersstudio.html>

Alameda magazine, <http://www.alamedamagazine.com/media/Alameda-Magazine/Community-Links/index.php?additionalinfo=Cultural+Organizations&view=details&itm=6754>

Site visit in 2010.

Historian: Chris Pattillo, Landscape Architect, April 17, 2010
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Front garden and elaborately detailed trellis and fence across the front of the property with boxwood hedge and holly tree (Chris Pattillo, January 2, 2010).



Primary garden space between the front trellis and garage with formally laid out beds, fountain, arched garden gate, lawn, hedges and perennial beds (Chris Pattillo, January 2, 2010).